

# DISCOVERY

The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

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BROOKS  
CITY-BASE  
A Technology and Business Center



Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

## Brooks' volunteers help build Habitat for Humanity home

By Steve VanWert

Discovery staff writer

Volunteers from Randolph and Lackland Air Force Bases and Fort Sam Houston, including nine people from Brooks City-Base, teamed with workers from the United Services Automobile Association to help build a Habitat for Humanity house in San Antonio. Beginning in late September and working Fridays and Saturdays, the group helped build a four-bedroom, one-and-a-half bath home, completing it Nov. 13.

For most of the Brooks volunteers, it was a new experience. Master Sgt. Ronald Pena from the 311th Mission Support Group, however, is an old hand at this. "I've helped build five homes," he said. "I began in 1993 in San Angelo, Texas, and again in Colorado Springs, Colo., and now here in San Antonio. It's a great program because it helps people out who don't qualify for a regular home loan, people in the middle who don't qualify for government assistance."

Airman 1st Class Shannon Sutherland, 311th Medical Squadron, volunteered for the first time. "I had a great time," she said, "and it's definitely a very worthy cause. There is a large group of people who fall through the cracks. They make too much money for other programs, but not enough to get a decent place to live."

"I love helping people," said Airman 1st Class Jennifer Fantony, 311th MSG, "especially when it's something like this where hundreds of people are involved in something so diverse. I believe Habitat for Humanity is a wonderful opportunity for the families involved and also for the volunteers."

A past volunteer, Airman Fantony heard about Habitat for Humanity from her boyfriend's



Photo by Ruby Rayborn

Brooks City-Base volunteer Senior Airman Antonia Cruz from the Air Force Institute for Operational Health joined forces with USAA volunteers and Habitat for Humanity to help build a dream for a deserving San Antonio family.

mother. "I've volunteered a lot in my life, with mission trips from my church and through the Brooks' Airmen's Council, but Habitat had the biggest impact on me. Building a home for someone is unforgettable, knowing that you were part of starting a new life for that family."

Senior Airman Antonia Cruz, Air Force Institute for Occupational Health, is also a previous volunteer. "I had always heard good things about Habitat, so I jumped at my first opportunity to participate," she said. "It's the most rewarding thing I've ever done. Walking into a house with nothing but concrete floors in the morning and leaving in at the end of the day and seeing beautiful tiles on the floors gives you a great feeling of satisfaction. Seeing the faces of the home-owners-to-be was sort of a confirmation of our purpose. Seeing their appreciation and how grateful they were to all of us made the experience even more rewarding and memorable."

The word that summed up the Habitat experience for Senior

Master Sgt. Manuel Topete from the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, was "gratifying." He said, "Volunteering for this project was one of the most gratifying moments of any of the charities or volunteer work I've done in my 24 years in the

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commanders and is directly tied to unit mission and performance criteria, such as logistic center production rates and standards.

"I think our Airmen, both military and Air Force civilian, should be able to earn time off for meeting high goals and standards, and we've worked very hard to make this possible. I think it will improve our production rates and inspire us to even higher standards of productivity and excellence," said General Martin.

Representatives from AFMC and the American Federation of Government Employees Council 214 signed an agreement Oct. 13 enacting the policy authorizing AFMC commanders to recognize groups of Air Force civilians with time-off awards. AFGE Council 214 represents the majority of bargaining unit employees in AFMC.

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## AFMC Air Force civilians allowed team goal day

By Rob Ely

AFMC Public Affairs

Beginning this month all Airmen, including Air Force civilians within Air Force Materiel Command, will be allowed to earn time off for meeting tough organizational goals and standards without having to use their annual leave. Until now, only military members were permitted to take off the day when AFMC commanders approved a goal day.

Gen. Greg Martin, AFMC commander, strongly backed the initiative by writing directly to the Air Force vice chief of staff, who approved his request.

General Martin authorized his commanders up to four goal days annually to reward their Air Force civilian-military work force with time off for meeting high mission and performance criteria. The criterion is determined by AFMC



Dr. James Roche

## Secretary of Air Force submits resignation

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche announced his resignation Nov. 16.

"I'm honored to have served the president, the secretary of defense and the terrific Airmen I've come to know and love in the past few years as the secretary of the Air Force," he said. "I've served with talented active, Guard, Reserve and civilian Airmen who are successfully countering new threats to our nation through their innovation and creativity. I'm proud to call myself an Airman."

Secretary Roche submitted his letter of resignation voluntarily. He left private industry to serve his country and the Air Force. He leaves the Air Force now so that his resignation may free-up nominations of Air Force general officers that have been on hold in Congress.

During his tenure, Secretary Roche spearheaded many initiatives to improve the quality of life for Airmen and the capabilities of the Air Force, such as increasing opportunities for master's degree programs for enlisted Airmen. Recapitalization and modernization program improvements under his watch included the F/A-22 Raptor, weaponizing the RQ/MQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicle, equipping the B-52 Stratofortress with the LITENING pod, delivering the remotely piloted Global Hawk and the Joint Direct Attack Munition.

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## COMMENTARY

## AFMC Safety Office sends holiday message



The following is a holiday safety message from the AFMC Safety Office.

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio — The approaching Thanksgiving holiday marks the beginning of America's festive season, one which will continue through New Year's Day. Air Force Materiel Command members soon will find themselves in the midst of celebration and reflection.

In preparation for this time reserved for family, friendships, traditions and goodwill toward one another, the AFMC safety office encourages commanders, supervisors, co-workers and peers to set the standard and a positive example for a safe holiday season. The holidays provide an opportunity to put into practice the Air Force Wingman program, which focuses on Airmen taking care of Airmen.

For instance, many of you will be traveling significant distances on the nation's highways, through its airports and via other means of travel. Now, before the onset of such activities, is the time to start planning your travels. Be sure to build flexibility into your travel plans. Remember, things don't always go as planned!

Conduct a personal risk assessment of your plan before traveling and consider all potential areas of risk such as unfamiliar roads, adverse weather conditions and the condition of your vehicle. Listen for traffic delays and think about the working order of any equipment you may be using, such as the snow skis you haven't been on in a year.

Remember, some celebrations start off with the best of intentions, but can sometimes end in tragedy. All of us must actively be involved in preventing drinking and driving, ensuring seatbelts and other protective gear are always used and complying with posted speed limits.

You should also be aware of your surroundings and the people you are with, or around. While the holidays are times of fun and laughter for most people, in some cases the holidays are days of depression, especially for those without family or friends who are far from home and have no way to express their loneliness or despair.

We in the safety office don't want to lose a single AFMC family member during this holiday season. Let's end the year on a positive note and begin 2005 safe, risk-free and ready for the challenges ahead. Include safety and risk management in all your holiday activities. We wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season.

## An original family Thanksgiving tradition

By Bette Christensen

Special to the Discovery

Traditions in these United States of America have become almost a religion and you had better stick to them or risk being called a rebel. We have many traditions associated with holidays – fireworks and homemade ice cream on the Fourth of July, hamburgers on Memorial Day, flying the American flag on Veteran's Day, hot cider on Halloween, pizza for Thanksgiving, Christmas caroling at Christmas – hey, wait a minute, pizza for Thanksgiving? What kind of a tradition is that?

Many traditions start in families, not necessarily by the mutual consensus of the mother and father agreeing to start it and faithfully sticking to it over the years, but rather out of necessity itself.

Eighteen years ago when I was pregnant with our sixth child, who was due the end of December 1986, I spent most of the day before Thanksgiving making pies. Being only 5-foot-2 and carrying a huge baby (she was nearly 10 pounds) and enough water to create my own Lake Erie, I knew that I had to go a little at a time and not make the pies on Thanksgiving Day. I figured that making them the day before would be a wise thing to do, but when I woke up on Thursday morning, I could hardly walk - my hips had had it. My husband (knowing my love for football) told me to go to the basement and watch television and he and the kids would fix dinner. I hobbled downstairs and he and the kids got right to work.

Ryan and Richard, 12 and nine years old at the time, were sent to Smith's, which is a block from our house. Jennifer, Reed and Russell set the table and helped their dad clean. Michelle rested quietly in my stomach.

After quite a while and several touchdowns later, I was called up for the FEAST. There amidst the Belgian lace tablecloth, Lenox china, crystal goblets and silver flatware, was a feast any eight-month pregnant woman would be thrilled to behold – two beautiful pizzas, a bowl of potato chips and ice in the goblets with the two-liter root beer bottles ready to pour. It was a great day for pizza and even greater, I discovered when it was time to clean up, that there wasn't much.

Well, time marched on and when Thanksgiving 1987 rolled around, I took a survey of what the family wanted for Thanksgiving, turkey or pizza. Pizza earned a unanimous vote. Well, we have had pizza every year for Thanksgiving since, complete with the Belgian lace tablecloth, crystal goblets, silver flatware and Lenox china.

Even though we don't fit with the mainstream of society and have a big turkey dinner, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy and sweet potatoes with marshmallows on top, our tradition of pizza at Thanksgiving means a lot to

us. We are together as a family. What could be better?

When I tell my friends about our tradition, most of them look at me with envy and I know that running through their minds is "Wow, that would be easy." They not only have to get up early to get "the bird" started, prepare all the salads and rolls, cook and mash the potatoes and so on and so on and so on, they have to clean it all up. If they have a helpful husband, the work is cut in half. If not, well, it's a lot of work. Because football is of great importance and a great tradition on Thanksgiving, many husbands are off to the La-Z Boy recliner and la-la land and the wife is left plucking the meat off the turkey, which it can't sit out for long, according to the "bacteria KGB" and has to be put in the fridge as soon as the dinner is over.

My oldest daughter, Jennifer, worked at Sam's Club as a cashier while going to college in Provo, Utah. About five days before Thanksgiving, a lady came through her line and Jennifer told me, "I could see 'stress' written all over her face. When I got to talking to her, I asked her if everything was going well for Thanksgiving and if she was ready. She looked at me and said, 'I don't think I can get it all done.'" My daughter said to her, "You should do what my mom does and have pizza for Thanksgiving." She finished checking her out and the lady left. About a minute later, she came back and asked Jennifer, "Does she make them or buy them?"

Our son, Russell, was 14 when he went with the Los Alamos High Marching Band to Houston to march in their Thanksgiving Day Parade. It was his first Thanksgiving away from home. He was torn. The true test of loyalty to our tradition was on the line. Would he prefer the Thanksgiving feast prepared by the hotel chef or pizza? He admitted he would have rather had the pizza.

Our children are all grown now and five of them are married. My youngest daughter turns 18 the end of December. Did the tradition carry on into their new families? Well, not really. I counseled the boys that when they got married, they needed to start their own traditions because their wives would bring in traditions from their families and it may not include pizza. I was right.

We are kind of well-known here in our small town of Los Alamos, N.M., because of our pizza tradition. The easy cleanup is the envy of the town. Over the years, it has been a great part of our tradition of Thanksgiving Day, engraved in our hearts as a special time of year when we all get together and count our many blessings. Traditions are individual to each family and those traditions make for the memories of a lifetime. Hurray for traditions. They are the glue that keeps families and our country in place. My mother-in-law has a saying — "Families are that joy might abound." Amen.



## BDA reaches agreement with major retail partners

SAN ANTONIO — The Brooks Development Authority, Hill-Granados Retail Partners and Wal-Mart announced that they have finalized the land acquisition to create the City-Base Landing Shopping Center.

HGRP will begin construction immediately on Phase 1 of the 570,000-square-foot shopping center to be anchored by a Wal-Mart SuperCenter located on 62 acres at the northeast corner of Brooks City-Base.

"We are extremely proud of this project," said Howard Peak, Chair of the BDA. "The revenue generated for the BDA by the sale of the property for this project will be used to improve infrastructure, enhance the quality of life for current and future tenants, residents and neighbors and attract and retain new high-wage medical, scientific, defense and homeland security jobs at Brooks City-Base."

The BDA pursued the project to leverage the physical and intellectual assets at Brooks City-Base for a greater public benefit. BDA worked for nearly two years with Mark Granados of HGRP, representatives from Wal-Mart and the Air Force, local elected officials and other area partners, to ensure this project is of the highest quality and benefit to Brooks City-Base and the community.

"We are pleased to see the progress the BDA is making to further develop Brooks City-Base," said Eric Stephens, Deputy Director, 311th Human Systems Wing, United States Air Force. "The entire base popula-

tion will be better supported by the City-Base Landing project. We look forward to continuing to work with the BDA to develop a strong partnership and vision for the future."

Representatives of the BDA, HGRP and Wal-Mart collaborated on the plans for the shopping center. The City Base Landing Shopping Center will have extensive landscaping and exemplary site amenities, including a mini-park that will surround the existing recycled water tank, and a new boulevard that will be developed around the entire commercial site.

The City-Base Landing Shopping Center will provide benefits to the community as well as to Brooks City-Base. The project was made possible in large part thanks to the investment from the City of San Antonio to improve storm drainage problems that have plagued the Military Drive/Goliad Road intersection. In addition to the storm drainage improvements, the shopping center will also provide other infrastructure updates to the southeast side area, upgrading streets and water, electric and gas systems. The attractive environment and convenient and diverse retail options will enhance the quality of life for the community surrounding Brooks City-Base.

"City-Base Landing will be the front door to Brooks City-Base technology park," said San Antonio City Councilman Ron Segovia. "There are so many exciting developments taking place at Brooks City-Base and this shopping center will be a



Photo by Rudy Purificato

The 60-acre northeast corner of Brooks City-Base near the former main entrance is undergoing a transformation into the City-Base Landing Shopping Center.

valuable addition to southeast San Antonio providing convenient amenities and services. The City of San Antonio is pleased to participate in this development, and on behalf of the surrounding community, I welcome Wal-Mart and all of the other retailers to southeast San Antonio."

"This development is further evidence of the positive growth taking place on the Southside due to the City's strategic investments in projects like Brooks City-Base," said City of San Antonio Mayor Ed Garza.

The collaborative negotiations between BDA, HGRP and Wal-Mart will serve to strengthen Brooks City-Base. The competitive process BDA used to develop the project will ensure a high quality and compatibility with the Air Force missions and those of the growing business and technology park.

"The agreement today is a major step forward in redeveloping Brooks City-Base," said Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Chairman of the Military Con-

struction Appropriations Subcommittee. "This investment will create jobs and opportunities in the area and the City-Base Landing retail complex will provide a great service to the surrounding community."

According to HGRP, several tenants have agreed to locate their businesses at the City-Base Landing Shopping Center, including: Office Depot, Chili's, Wells Fargo, Broadway Bank, Longhorn Café, Buffalo Wild Wings, Fashion 5, Starbucks, Cingular, Chick-Fil-A, EB Games and City-Base Laundry.

"This was a very difficult project to bring to fruition," said Mark Granados, Managing Partner of HGRP. "Our ability to work with the BDA and other partners as well as source, pre-lease, entitle and engineer the best site in the trade areas resulted in a top-rate project. I believe HGRP has put together the best team in the local shopping center industry."

Courtesy of the Brooks Development Authority

## Brooks in need of care providers

By Jan McMahon  
Brooks Services Division

An increasing number of families at Brooks City-Base are still in need of quality child care. The Services Division continues to work with Family Child Care, an organization that licenses individuals to care for children in their home, to find quality care providers.

Family Child Care provides an opportunity for dependents who are 18 years of age and older with a high school diploma or GED to stay home and earn money at the same time.

The program provides free training, including CPR and first aid, and the use of the extensive lending program for toys, equipment and resource materials. Another benefit of providing child care with FCC is reimbursement for meals served in accordance with the USDA Food Program.

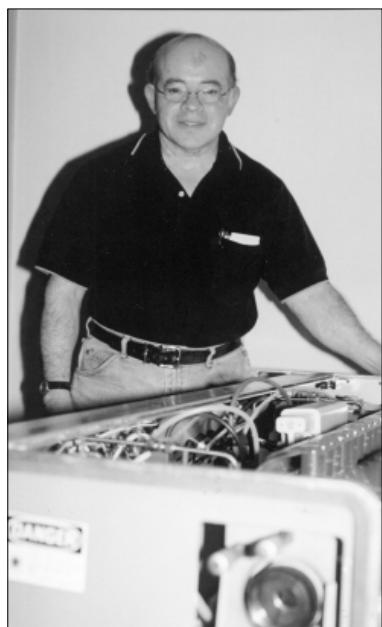
Family Child Care provides a loving home-like environment for children. Caregivers will plan enriching activities, which stimulate children's growth and development. The provider's own children will benefit from the opportunity to socialize with other children.

Prior to affiliating with the Brooks City-Base Family Child Care Program, child care licensing must be obtained through the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Service. For more information, contact their office at 932-5200.

Applicants may pick up and complete an application packet from the FCC office, Bldg. 1154. For more information, call 536-2041 or visit the Family Child Care office.



# Former Brooks scientist inducted into Science Hall of Fame



By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

Former Brooks City-Base scientist Dr. John Taboada became a charter member of the San Antonio Science and Technology Hall of Fame when he was inducted Nov. 17 during the inaugural 2004 Stars of Innovation Gala at the San Antonio Marriott Northwest Hotel.

The San Antonio Accelerator Initiative Network event honored 11 scientific innovators and inventors during its initial technology achievement awards program.

Dr. Taboada, who was a U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine atomic and molecular physicist from 1968 until his retirement in 2002, earned Hall of Fame selection primarily on his

pioneering optics work for the Air Force.

As principal investigator in 1979 for a series of Air Force retinal effects studies involving extra-short pulse lasers, he discovered the photo refractive keratotomy process. Today, this technique is used in LASIK corrective surgery to improve vision by resurfacing the cornea using laser energy. This innovation has since helped millions of people worldwide correct myopia (nearsightedness) with a 98 to 99 percent success rate.

The process replaced the high-risk surgical technique called radio keratotomy that used diamond knives to make corneal incisions.

"I am very pleased by the honor. I certainly appreciate it very much," said Dr. Taboada,

who today owns Taboada Research Instruments, Inc., a small business venture near Fort Sam Houston in partnership with his son, an electrical engineer/scientist.

Dr. Taboada's Hall of Fame selection was also based on other significant scientific contributions. His earlier research involving basic geometry applied to the world's first artificial heart pump was later adopted by developers of the JARVIK 7 artificial heart.

He was also cited for his 1971 development of a force measurement apparatus with greater sensitivity than the atomic force microscope for which the Nobel Prize was subsequently awarded.

For more than 30 years, Dr. Taboada has been a pioneer in the fields of metrology, biophysics and photo biology. Today, he is working on another scientific breakthrough in his San Antonio

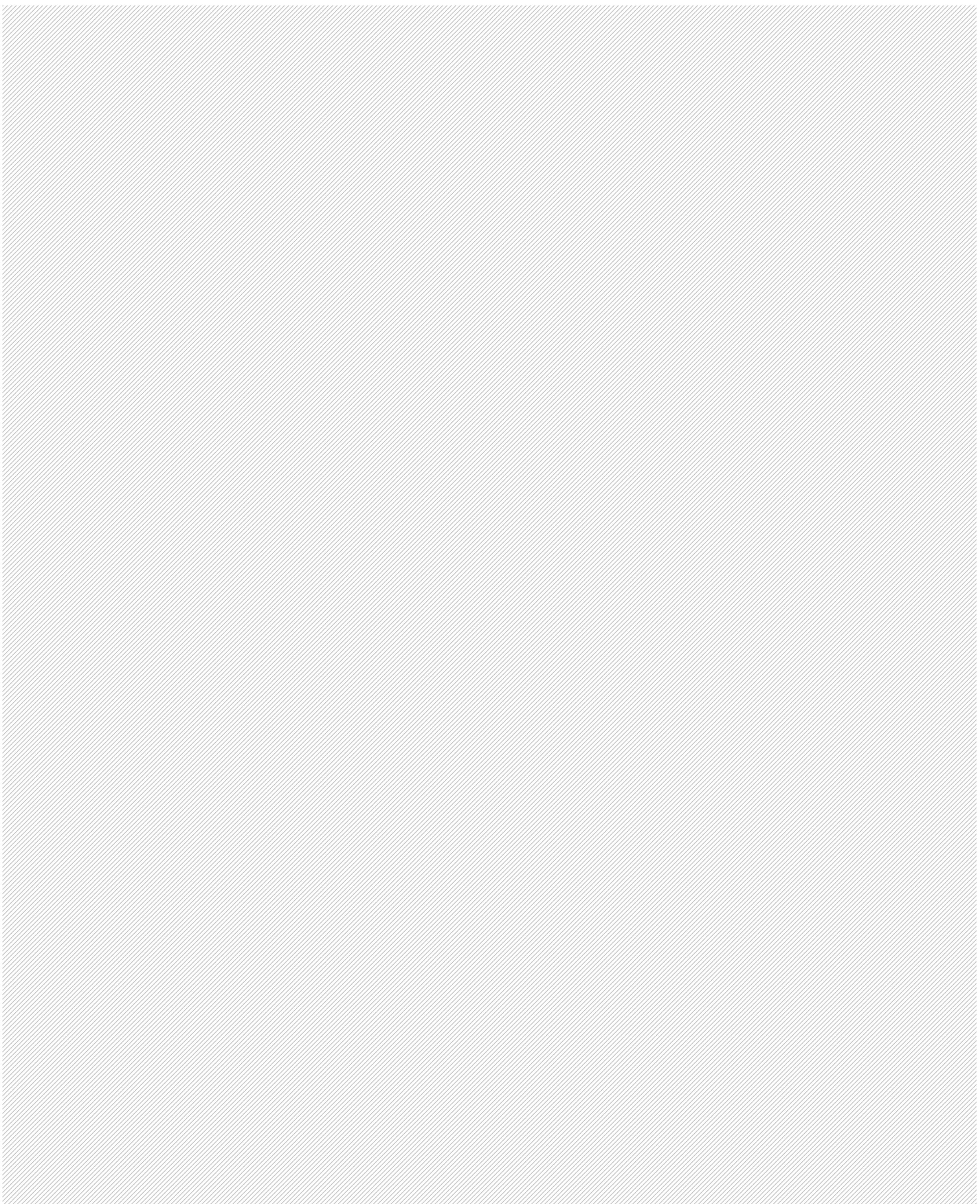
laboratory – the world's first non-invasive technique for detecting diabetes in 10 seconds.

Other innovators who are members of the inaugural Hall of Fame class are Dr. Julio Palmaz, a UTSA Health Science Center scientist-physician who invented the Palmaz stent; Durrell "Dee" Howard, an aviation pioneer and innovator; Dr. Pemmaraju Rao with Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research; John Vrzalik with Kinetic Concepts, Inc.; William A. Mallow with Southwest Research Institute, Dr. William Barker with Data Race and the DataPoint team of Lewis and Henry Donzis, Jonathan Schmidt and John Murphy.

The SATAI Network was founded in 1999 as a City of San Antonio venture to develop the local science and technology industry.

Photo by Rudy Purificato

Former Brooks scientist Dr. John Taboada with the excimer laser he used to discover the photo refractive Kertectomy process used today in LASIK surgery to correct vision.





## Military volunteers work together to build home

Continued from page 1

service. It's something that made me feel really good inside and gave me a great sense of accomplishment, knowing that I helped fulfill someone's dream."

According to Sergeant Topete, Habitat for Humanity is "not a charity in my opinion because the owners have to pay for all the materials and must put in a minimum of 350 hours working, 50 on their own house and 300 in other houses currently under construction. The only thing they don't pay for is the volunteer labor we provide."

Lt. Col. Jason Dudjak, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, had a

unique outlook on Habitat for Humanity, due to his job at Brooks.

"In my current job, I'm in charge of the Housing Privatization execution branch at AFCEE," he said. "My job is to upgrade the 40,000 inadequate homes in the U.S. Air Force with quality housing where Airmen will choose to live. I wanted to see the standard of housing that was being provided by a non-governmental organization."

Was he impressed?

"The quality of housing being provided by Habitat was very good," he said, "and the speed they are producing these homes with volunteer labor is light speed. I was

truly impressed."

Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio has completed new construction of more than 250 affordable homes in Bexar County since 1976. More than 100,000 homes have been built worldwide. Families whose total income is generally 25 percent to 50 percent of the area median income can qualify for the program. Families

are accepted based on their need, ability to pay a zero percent interest mortgage and their willingness to partner. Once accepted, homeowners purchase the house with a 20 to 25 year mortgage that typically averages \$350 to \$400 a month.

Volunteers are the backbone of the program. And they don't need to bring any particular construction experience to the table.

"You don't have to have any expertise at all," said Sergeant Pena. "The only thing required is that you're willing to give a helping hand."

"I'm lucky if I can change a light bulb correctly," said Airman Cruz. "Once you arrive at the site, the experts tell you step-by-step what needs to be done. Then you go to the project area and they give you a demo. I didn't know anything about laying tile prior to Habitat, but being the great 'Glue Girl' that I am now, I can lend a hand helping almost anyone lay glue and floor tiles."

"There are professionals who do the plumbing, electricity, et cetera," said Airman Sutherland. "And there are professionals nearby at all times guiding you. Anyone can contribute."

Besides Sergeants Pena and Topete and Airmen Sutherland, Cruz and Fantony, Tech. Sgts. Eric McQuiston, USAFSAM,



Photo by Ruby Rayborn

Volunteer Lawrence Kuhlman, husband of Tech. Sgt. Linda Kuhlman of the Air Force Institute for Operational Health, was one of nine Brooks City-Base volunteers who helped build a home in a Habitat for Humanity effort.

and Linda Kuhlman, AFIOH, and Staff Sgt. Crystal Stokely, AFIOH, also were Habitat for Humanity volunteers for this project. When asked if they plan on volunteering for Habitat for Humanity again, all said "Absolutely."



Military volunteers from units at Brooks, Fort Sam Houston, and Randolph and Lackland Air Force Bases built a four-bedroom home for the Habitat of Humanity.



BRIG GEN. TOM TRAVIS  
311th Human Systems  
Wing commander

# ACTION LINE

## 536-2222

The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the **COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222**.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

**The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:**

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-2851	Military Personnel.....	536-1845
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851	Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861	Military Pay.....	536-5778
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571	Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
311th Mission Support Group – Logistics Division.....	536-3541	Inspector General (FWA).....	536-2358
Safety.....	536-2111	Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
Housing Maintenance.....	533-5900	EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
Housing Office.....	533-5905	BXMarket.....	533-9079
311th Services Division.....	536-2545	Brooks Development Office.....	536-3655
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715	Brooks City-Base Marketing and Development Office.....	536-5366

## AF leaders send Thanksgiving message

The following is a Thanksgiving message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper:

Each year, Americans set aside the special day of Thanksgiving to gather with family and friends to count their blessings. At the first Thanksgiving festivals in the Virginia and Massachusetts colonies, the original settlers made praise and prayer for a bountiful harvest and hope for a promising future the centerpiece of their celebrations.

This Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the blessings we have as Americans because our nation still holds the promise of bountiful lands and the right of freedom. We enjoy peace and prosperity like no other nation. The rest of the world admires our way of life because America's values are bedrock.

For Airmen, we count an extra blessing around the Thanksgiving table this year: the privilege of serving in the greatest air and space force in the world. By your professionalism, dedication

and willingness to answer our country's call at a time of war, you stand as the shining example of strength, courage and patriotism for us all. Indeed, as Americans give thanks for their many blessings this Thanksgiving Day, they'll offer their gratitude to you for safeguarding our great nation.

This Thanksgiving Day finds many of our Airmen deployed throughout the world in defense of America and to help give others a chance for freedom. Please remember them in your prayers and make sure their families are taken care of on this special holiday.

We're very proud of you and your families for what you do to protect our cherished freedoms. Happy Thanksgiving!



## FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

### SINGLE PARENTS GROUP

Third Tuesday – 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

For a great morale booster, stop by the FSC for a free lunch. Meet other single parents for open discussions or outings. The Chapel, Life Skills Support Center and the Family Support Center are sponsoring this class. Contact LaWanda Roper at 536-2444 or Sandra Cervantes at 536-5301 for more information.

### SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT

Dec. 1 – 12:30 - 3:15 p.m., Bldg. 537

This is a mandatory class for active military personnel who are retiring or separating within 120 days. Topics covered are pre-separation, Veterans benefits, survivors benefit plans, TRICARE, and financial planning for transition. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

### SMOOTH MOVE

Dec. 7 – 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

PCSing? Hear briefings from TMO, Legal, Clinic, Finance, Housing, and the Family Support Center and ask your questions. Open to all active duty members, DoD civilians, and spouses. Any move can be stressful, but an

overseas move has its own set of challenges and opportunities. Learn more about your OCONUS PCS by staying after for the PCS Overseas class.

### HOME BUYING SEMINAR

Dec. 8 – 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

Learn about veterans, Texas veterans, FHA and conventional loans. Hear how to qualify for a mortgage, how to repair your credit and how to refinance your home.

### VA BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

Wednesdays – 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

A VA representative will be at Brooks weekly. Schedule an appointment to receive VA assistance in filling out your claims, screen medical records, or one-on-one consultations. Bring a copy of your medical records.

To register for class,  
Call 536-2444



## BCB punishment actions and court martials

The following nonjudicial punishment actions (Article 15) and court-martials have occurred on Brooks City-Base from Sept. 7 through Nov. 15:

### Article 15:

An airman basic from the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine was punished for dereliction of duty (going from place of duty and failure to follow dorm policies) and for making a false official statement. Punishment consisted of 14 days extra duties, restriction to the limits of Brooks City-Base, forfeiture of \$278 and a reprimand.

An airman basic from USAFSAM was punished for dereliction of duty (wrongfully consuming alcohol) and for disrespect towards a senior non-commissioned officer. Punishment consisted of seven days extra duties, forfeiture of \$278 and a reprimand.

A senior airman from the 311th Human Systems Wing was punished for being absent without authority and dereliction of duty. Punishment consisted of reduction to the grade of E-3, five days extra duties, forfeiture of \$150 and a reprimand.

An airman from USAFSAM was punished for dereliction of

duty (going from place of duty and wrongful possession of alcohol in dormitory). Punishment consisted of a reduction in grade to E-1 (suspended for six months), forfeiture of \$311 and a reprimand.

An airman from the 68th Information Operations Squadron was punished for failure to obey a lawful order by breaking restriction to the limits of Brooks City-Base while serving a previous Article 15 punishment. Punishment consisted of reduction to the grade of E-1, forfeiture of \$250 and a reprimand.

### Court Martials:

An airman first class from the 68th IOS was court-martialed at a special court martial for two wrongful uses of cocaine substance and dereliction of duty (underage drinking). The airman pled guilty and was found guilty as charged. The airman was sentenced to 11 months confinement, forfeitures of \$700 pay per month for 11 months and reduction to the grade of E-1.

A captain from the Air Force Institute of Operational Health was court-martialed at a general court martial Oct. 26 for fraudulent appointment, making false official statements and wearing unauthorized insignias. The cap-

tain pled guilty to all charges except one false official statement and was found guilty in accordance with his pleas. The captain was sentenced to be dismissed from the United States Air Force and fined \$4,569.

An airman basic from the USAFSAM was court-martialed at a special court martial for indecent assault and dereliction of duties (underage drinking and phase violation). The airman basic pled to and was found guilty of assault consummated by a battery and dereliction of duties. The airman basic was sentenced to 30 days restriction to Brooks City-Base and forfeiture of \$600 pay for one month.

An airman first class from USAFSAM was court-martialed at a special court martial for indecent assault, dereliction of duties (underage drinking and phase violations) and for making false official statements. The airman first class pled and was found guilty of assault consummated by a battery, dereliction of duties and making false official statements. The airman first class was sentenced to three months confinement, reduction to the grade of E-1 and forfeiture of \$700 pay for three months. A pre-trial agreement in the case limits any confinement to two months.

## The Fair Credit Reporting Act

By Capt. Michael Felsen  
311th Human Systems Wing/JA

In 1970 Congress enacted the Fair Credit Reporting Act as Title VI of the Consumer Credit Protection Act. This statute is enforced by the Federal Trade Commission and is designed to promote accuracy, fairness, and impartiality. It is also designed to ensure the privacy of the information used in consumer reports prepared and maintained by credit reporting agencies.

Negative information in a Credit Reporting Agency lasts seven years following some exceptions: criminal convictions can be reported without any limitations, bankruptcy information may be reported for 10 years, information reported in response to an application for a job with a salary of more than \$75,000 has no time limit, information about a lawsuit or an unpaid judgment can be reported for seven years or until the statute of limitations runs out and information reported because of an application for more than \$150,000 worth of credit or life insurance has no time limit.

If a consumer feels a credit report is inaccurate, that person should inform the CRA from which the report was received. The CRA must re-investigate the matter, usually within 30 days unless the CRA believes the dispute to be frivolous. The CRA must also forward all relevant in-

formation to the consumer. If the CRA finds the information is inaccurate they must notify all nationwide CRAs so the information can be corrected.

The CRA must give written results within five business days and a free copy of the consumer's credit report if the dispute results in a change. Furthermore, if the CRA finds the inaccurate or incomplete information cannot be verified or is indeed inaccurate, then the CRA shall promptly delete the item of information from the consumer's file or modify that item of information so it is accurate.

The CRA cannot put disputed information back in the consumer's file unless the information provider verifies its accuracy and completeness. Moreover, the CRA must then give written notice to the consumer of this information along with the name, address, and phone number of the provider of this information. If reinvestigation does not resolve the dispute then the consumer may file a brief statement setting forth the nature of the dispute.

For most violations of the FCRA, a consumer may sue a CRA, a provider of CRA information, or any person who used CRA information. The statute of limitations is two years from the date when the liability arises, except in cases of material and willful misrepresentations.

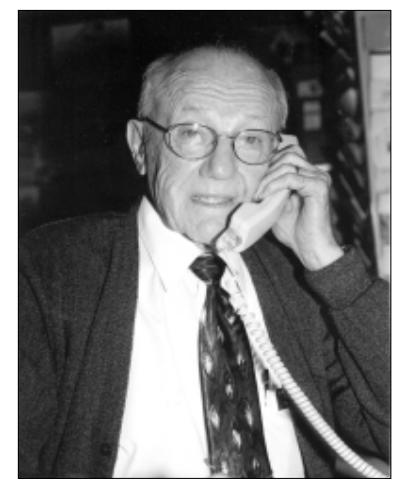


Photo by Rudy Purificato

Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Albert Nichels, a Brooks Retiree Activities Office volunteer, is the 2004 runner up for the AARP's highest award.

## Brooks volunteer to receive AARP honor

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

A Brooks Retiree Activities Office volunteer will be honored Saturday, Nov. 20 by the American Association of Retired Persons for his service to senior citizens. Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Albert Nichels, a former World War II fighter pilot, will be feted as runner up for the prestigious Andrus Award during AARP's 2004 awards luncheon at the St. Anthony Hotel.

"It's AARP's highest award. It's a special honor," said Colonel Nichels, a first-time Andrus Award nominee. The award is named for Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, a former California educator and pioneering Medicare law advocate, who founded AARP in 1958.

Colonel Nichels was nominated for the award on the strength of his AARP volunteer work as Assistant State Coordinator for the organization's driver safety program. "The program

was originally designed to teach defensive driving to older citizens," said Colonel Nichels, an AARP member since 1951.

He initially supported the driver safety program as an instructor. He has taught about 130 classes to an estimated 2,500 participants in the San Antonio area.

Now he primarily schedules classes, monitors instructors and coordinates and secures sponsors for the classes, working mostly with churches, retirement

centers, military retired activities offices and senior centers in a 19-county area in Texas.

His other AARP volunteer work includes helping man the downtown information center and serving as an advisor to the San Antonio Traffic Jam Coalition.

The 82-year-old Comfort, Texas native has been a Brooks Retiree Activities Office volunteer since 1994, serving as director until 2000. He continues to support the program as a volunteer.



## Roche resigns

Continued from page 1

"Dr. Roche has led the Air Force through one of the most remarkable periods in our nation's history," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper.

"It has been my honor to serve side-by-side with him since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. During his tenure he has made each and every Airman his priority. His unrelenting resolve to adapt our force, to counter new and resilient threats to our nation, has guaranteed America's Air Force remains the greatest in the world. His compassion for the sacrifices made by our Airmen and their families is known across the Air Force. Indeed, the men and women of the Air Force family will remember him as a leader, friend and, most of all, as an Airman."

Among other accomplishments, Secretary Roche instituted an agenda for change to improve the staff and cadet culture at the U.S. Air Force Academy following reports of sexual assault. His air and space expeditionary force concept improvements linked professional military education to AEF rotation dates, reorganized deployable unit type codes and delivered base opening capability packages.

Secretary Roche's concept of operations rationale transitioned the Air Force from a platform-based to a capabilities-based focus. His quality-of-life initiatives



Photo by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

Air Force Secretary Dr. James G. Roche submitted his resignation Nov. 16. Secretary Roche said he plans on leaving his position Jan. 20 or sooner if his successor is confirmed by the Senate by then. He has led the Air Force since 2001.

for Airmen reduced out-of-pocket housing expenses, yielded targeted pay raises, and resulted in large-scale base housing renovations and the one-plus-one dormitory concept.

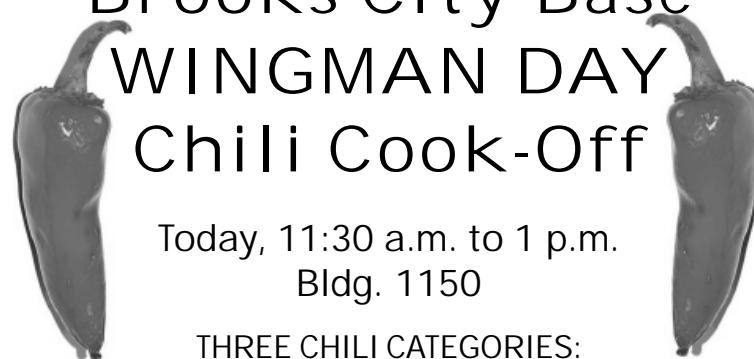
Before his appointment, Secretary Roche held several executive positions with Northrop Grumman Corp., including cor-

porate vice president and president, electronic sensors and systems sector. Before joining Northrop Grumman in 1984, he was democratic staff director of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee. Secretary Roche's previous military service spanned 23 years in the U.S. Navy where he retired as a captain in 1983.

## Brooks City-Base WINGMAN DAY Chili Cook-Off

Today, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Bldg. 1150

THREE CHILI CATEGORIES:  
Best, hottest and most unique  
Tickets are \$2 – Contact the first sergeants



## BROOKS SPOTLIGHT

### Things to do around Brooks

#### SERVICES DIVISION by Jan McMahon

##### YOUTH PROGRAM CENTER 536-2515, Bldg. 470

###### Tree lighting ceremony

Everyone is invited to attend the annual tree lighting ceremony. Bring the entire family, friends and office staff and help kick off the holiday season. Join the youth program's staff at the Hangar 9 Museum Dec. 1 at 5 p.m. There will be the lighting of the tree, holiday carols and a visit from Santa Claus. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

###### After school programs

The Youth Center is taking registrations for their after school programs. Children ages five through 12 years will be accepted. The center also provides one day camps, holiday camps and a winter camp. Drop-in services are available. Contact the center staff for more details.

###### Santa Claus suit available

Rent a Santa Claus suit for only \$15 per event. The suit comes with beard, hair, hat, belt, shoe coverings and a bag for gifts. Have Santa visit your home or make an appearance at the office party. Reserve your suit early to ensure that jolly old St. Nick makes an appearance at your function. Call the youth center for more details.

#### Gift wrapping help

Santa Claus will send his helpers to make your holiday gift wrapping painless. All you need to do is bring your gifts to the youth center Dec. 1 through Dec. 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and let someone else do your gift wrapping for you. There is no fee and donations will be accepted. Paper and ribbon will be provided free of charge.

If you have a box for your gift, please bring it with the item to be wrapped. This will help the workers with wrapping your gifts. All donations will go towards the youth and teen center programs.

##### SIDNEY'S 536-2077, Bldg. 714

— Friday Night Bingo is held every Friday starting at 5 p.m. Cards go on sale at 4:30 pm and are \$1 each. Stop by and try your luck.

— Sidney's has expanded its weekend hours. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, a continental breakfast will be served from 8 to 10 a.m., followed by lunch from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dinner will be served from 4 to 6 p.m.

— Make plans to enjoy Thanksgiving Day dinner at Sidney's Nov. 25, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

##### BASE LIBRARY 536-2534, Bldg. 705

###### Be Eager About Reading

Everyone is encouraged to participate in BEAR with the Base Library. From November through December, the staff will collect new and almost new teddy bears that will be donated to the Child Protective Services Office of San Antonio. All bears collected will be delivered to the agency to be given to children under their guidance during the holidays.



## 2004 Family and Teen talent contest

Brooks City-Base Youth Programs hosted the 2004 Family and Teen Talent Contest Nov. 12 at the Brooks Club. This contest provides additional opportunities for families and youth to participate jointly in a recreational activity. It also contributes to developing creative expression, providing the opportunity for the development of meaningful relationships with peers and adults.

The contest develops an appreciation of the arts, determines the winners in each category and recognizes the most talented individuals Air Force-wide.

There were 15 categories and Brooks had eight category entries. A video tape of the winners in each category will be forwarded for competition to the Air Force level.

All of the participants received certificates of participation and the first place winners received plaques. What-A-Burger's mascot "What-A-Guy" handed out food coupons, balloons and prizes to everyone in attendance. The master of ceremonies was Suzanne Oates, and the judges were Harold McLaurin, Karen Cox, Eddie Bernel, Kenneth Collins and Liz McClelland. Linda Kuhlman and Tim McClelland worked the video cameras.

Congratulations to the winners:  
Parent and Youth Team — Patricia and Sean Bennett  
Children Solo Act — Virginia Medina  
Preteen Solo Act — Nicole Mauricio  
Preteen Group Act — The Angels  
Teen Solo/Vocal Act — Phillip Wolf  
Teen Solo/Instrumental — Andrew Marchiniak  
Teen Group Act — The Chosen Angels  
Adult Solo — Patricia Bennett



## Brooks' jazzman helps prevent charities from 'singing the blues'

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

As long as jazzman Mike Young and his fellow musicians are around to help, local charities never have to ask their supporters to "sing the blues" for lack of community support.

For the past few years, this Brooks-based General Dynamics computer specialist has been center stage in a local band's quest to help diverse groups of people in need.

As a 50-something member of the band "Harry Wurzbach & The 410s,"

Young is remaining youthful while making inroads on the charity circuit with performances perceived to be hot enough to melt asphalt.

On Thursday, the group played their latest gig in the parking lot at Crossroads Mall to help raise donations of food, blankets and clothing for the homeless by supporting the San Antonio-based charity "We Got You Covered." In December, the band plans to again support the "Make A Wish Foundation."

Some charities, such as the American Cancer Society Relay for Life held in May in Olmos Basin, have special significance to band members. "That one really touched me (last year) because there were a lot of cancer survivors and their families who attended. It was poignant. It

was tough getting through it (performing)," said Mr. Young, the direct support manager and web developer for General Dynamics Network Systems at Brooks. The event was especially important to the group because one of its members is a cancer survivor. It's also special in that it was the first charity the group supported when the band was formed in 2001.

Composed mostly of musicians older 50 years, the band was created during a social gathering at the Fox & Hound Club. "We met there, a breeding ground for (musical) groups. The original idea for the group was to do concerts for kids in church. It (band) grew out of that. We played some stuff for kids for fun, such as early Beatles and Rolling Stones songs," Mr. Young said.

While a professional bass guitarist, Mr. Young fits right in with other band members who have professional careers outside music. Local dentist Carl Mazzocco plays keyboards; drummer Paul Lozano works for Pharm D pharmacy for Hospira, a division of Abbott Laboratories; and guitarist Steve Bassel is employed as an information systems manager for H.E.B.

T.J. Dolotina, the band's vocalist, put the group on a path to helping charities. As a medical systems sales representative, Mr. Dolotina initially arranged gigs that supported medical/health-related community affairs, Mr. Young said.

Word of mouth about the band's 'rockin' musical style spread as fast as a hit song climbing the Billboard charts. San Antonio District Attorney Susan Reed was so enamored with them that she re-

cruited the band to perform for the "Make A Wish Foundation."

"We play classic rock, but we're not an oldies group," Mr. Young said, noting that he prefers jazz. He cited some personal favorites, including "Moon Dance" by Van Morrison and "Addicted To Love" by the late MTV rocker Robert Palmer. Besides having a crowd-pleasing musical repertoire, the band's curious name was a stroke of marketing genius.

"T.J. came up with the name," recalls Mr. Young, explaining, "It's (band name) on the radio eight times a day during traffic reports. We have instant name recognition, although people either love or hate the name."

More importantly, the band has developed a reputation for giving back to the community through charity events ranging from the Lupus Foundation to the Bienestar Foundation, the latter an organization that educates children about diabetes awareness and prevention.

The group also donates its fee to be auctioned off at some events, such as the 2003 Rey Feo Ball at River Center Mall that raised money for academic scholarships.

"Playing for charities is the most rewarding. We have a great time and a lot



Photos by Rudy Purificato

Brooks employee Mike Young (middle) has been an integral part of the jazz band "Harry Wurzbach and the 410s" since its formation a few years ago. Playing at the River Center Mall is just one of the group's many gigs for charity.

of fun doing it," said Mr. Young who began his musical career as a youngster. "I began playing guitar when I was 12. I started playing night clubs at age 15. I played my way through college with money earned from playing music," he says.

Born in Crawfordsville, Ind. in 1952, Mr. Young grew up in Tampa, Fla. In 1976, he graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in geography. However, jazz music became his life-long passion. That passion has extended to his family. All three of his sons are jazz musicians. They, along with his wife are supportive of him being 'on the road' with "Harry Wurzbach & The 410s."

"We may be a bunch of old guys, but we rock," he said.

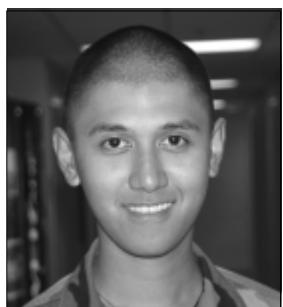


Mike Young



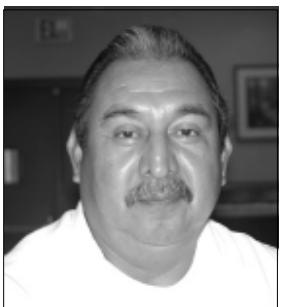
# A LOOK at BROOKS

What is your  
favorite  
Thanksgiving  
tradition?



A1C Joseph Bonita  
USAFSAM

We don't have Thanksgiving in the Philippines, which is where I am from. My first Thanksgiving, I was in boot camp, so this will be my first "real" Thanksgiving.



Anastacio Guitron  
311th MSG/Services

It's a tradition to get together with the entire family and cook. This year, I hope to start a new tradition of frying the turkey instead of cooking it.



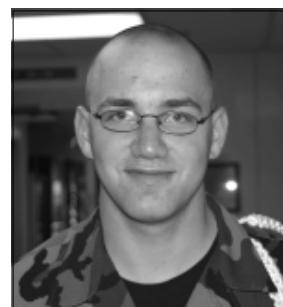
Staff Sgt. Voncelle James  
311th HSW

We eat a traditional Thanksgiving dinner every year. It's a tradition for me to help my father fry up turkeys.



Staff Sgt. Clay Phipps  
311th MDS

It's becoming a tradition to go hunting for deer and turkey. Occasionally, I will bag a turkey and that's what we will cook for our Thanksgiving dinner.



Airman Demetri Meyer  
USAFSAM

We get together with the family and give thanks to God before enjoying the traditional Thanksgiving turkey with all the fixings.



## Project CHEER's Italian Food Festival



Photos by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.



Members of the Brooks City-Base community participated in a Nov. 10 Italian Food Festival as part of the Military Family Appreciation Day activities. The dinner was part of Project CHEER, an on-going effort to create more activities for Airmen, permanent party personnel and members of the base community. The next Project CHEER activity, sponsored by the 311th Mission Support Group, is a card tournament slated for Dec. 1

## Air Force aims for 'weapon grade' vision

By Sue Campbell

59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

In June, the Vice Chief of Staff and the Air Force Surgeon General approved wavefront-guided LASIK for aviators in aircraft with cabin altitudes of less than 14,000 feet. WFG-LASIK is a new generation of laser eye surgery that maps subtle irregularities in the cornea before the procedure, providing crisper vision and fewer side effects following surgery.

Standard LASIK is based on the person's glasses prescription. WFG-LASIK adds a measurement of more subtle total eye distortions, called higher-order aberrations. Based on technology that helps astronomers see twinkling stars more clearly, waves of light are sent into the eye and measured as they bounce back, forming a 3-D map of each person's unique wave patterns.

"WFG-LASIK is a major warfighter readiness issue which allows for less down time and quicker return to the cockpit for the Air Force's aviation population. This is critical in today's expeditionary forces, get to the fight quicker, envi-

ronment," said Col. (Dr.) Robert Smith, chief of Cornea/Refractive Surgery at Wilford Hall Medical Center. "WFG-LASIK is a 'performance enhancement' procedure and Air Force pilots feel this surgical procedure gives them a competitive or combat edge in the fight."

Dr. Smith, who also serves as refractive surgery consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General and program manager of the Air Force Warfighter Refractive Surgery Program, performed the first aviator WFG-LASIK treatment in September 2004 using the VISX-S4 platform. The VISX-S4 is the current wavefront laser used by all Air Force treatment centers.

"That aviator now has 20/12 vision (better than 20/20 vision) without glasses and tells me that his night vision performance has been tremendously improved," said Dr. Smith. "This is the typical result that I call an 'improvement to the human weapon system' which gives our pilots the competitive edge in their work environment."

The Air Force now has five Warfighter Refractive Surgery Centers and has per-

formed more than 25,000 treatments since August 2000 when refractive surgery was approved by the Air Force Surgeon General and Chief of Staff. Approximately 25 percent of the procedures were conventional and custom LASIK.

The Air Force is currently involved with the Navy in a collaborative WFG-PRK study to obtain Food and Drug Administration approval for WFG-PRK using the new VISX Fourier Custom treatment algorithms. This procedure gives the patient a more customized treatment with the potential of better visual acuity.

"Initial results are very promising with quality vision results better than the original treatment profiles," said Dr. Smith.

At this time, WFG-LASIK is not approved for those aviators in high performance aircraft, such as fighters and trainers, or those whose aircraft have cabin altitudes potentially above 14,000 feet. Conventional LASIK was not approved for any aviator. Visit [www.whmc.af.mil](http://www.whmc.af.mil) for more info.

## Goal days a reality for Air Force civilians

Continued from page 1

Air Force civilians who are represented by other bargaining units are not eligible for group time-off awards until their installations fulfill local bargaining obligations, said John Day, Civilian Personnel and Programs chief, AFMC headquarters.

Enacting the new policy was a significant accomplishment for AFMC senior leaders and union representatives, said Scott Blanch, AFGE Council 214 president. Mr. Blanch, who has been instrumental in creating an effective management-employee partnership, said AFMC had a big challenge in obtaining Air Force-level approval for Air Force civilian time-off awards. Noting the climate of cooperation established over time through the AFMC-AFGE Partnership Council, he commended General Martin and command senior leaders for pushing the initiative.

"Their commitment and support of the Partnership Council and this win-win agreement between AFMC and AFGE Council 214 will result in both organizations taking care of their people so they can take care of the mission," Mr. Blanch said.

In his policy memorandum May 11 outlining criteria for goal days, General Martin emphasized that goal days are not entitlements but are earned for mission performance, professional behavior, and administrative timeliness. Under the new policy, commanders may designate up to four goal days annually.

Mr. Blanch said that allowing Air Force civilians time off for goal days also will result in more timely recognition for good work.

"In the past, 98 percent of all civilian awards were given during the time frame that appraisals are done," he said. "So an employee or group of employees could do something great and wonderful in, say, July and they wouldn't be recognized until March or April the next year."

The policy change allowing compensated time-off for goal days for AFMC civilians had its origins with Lt. Gen. Donald Wetekam, a former commander at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

## AAFES offers support to servicemembers

DALLAS — With the holidays quickly approaching, many Americans are searching for ways to reach out to troops stationed overseas. Anticipating a rush of mail from well-wishers, Department of Defense officials remind people that, "Due to security concerns and transportation constraints, the DOD no longer accepts items to be mailed to 'Any Servicemember.'

They report some people have tried to avoid this prohibition by sending large numbers of packages to an individual servicemember's overseas address, which, DOD officials said, clogs the mail system. It also causes unnecessary delays in delivery, and military postal officials cannot guarantee delivery by a specific date because of processing constraints.

People wishing to send support to troops overseas have another option. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service's "Gifts from the Homefront" and "Help Our Troops Call Home" programs allow anyone to make a direct contribution toward the morale of deployed troops without compromising security or increasing the strain on the military mail system.

"Gifts from the Homefront" certificates, which can be purchased by any individual, business or civic organization, allow troops to purchase items of necessity and convenience at exchange facilities worldwide including 51 supporting operations Iraqi Freedom and

Enduring Freedom. The gift certificates may also be personalized with a message to troops who find themselves so far from home.

Because the gift certificates can be used for merchandise already stocked at contingency locations, "Gifts from the Homefront" are a safe alternative to traditional care packages, AAFES officials said. Servicemembers can purchase exactly what they need with the certificates.

AAFES' Commander Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost said "Gifts from the Homefront" and "Help our Troops Call Home" are excellent ways for all to show they care.

"I encourage every American who is concerned about the welfare of deployed troops to buy a gift certificate or a phone card," General Frost said. "While these troops are doing superhuman tasks in countries half way around the world, we must remember that, after all, they too are human, and the holidays can be a tough time to be away from friends and family. Something as simple as a \$20 gift certificate or \$39 phone card can deliver the much-needed 'connection home' troops crave during the holiday season."

Those wishing to send "Gifts from the Homefront" can log on to [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com) or call 877-770-4438. "Help Our Troops Call Home" phone cards are also available at [aafes.com](http://aafes.com) or by calling 800-527-2345.

## Veteran's Day Parade

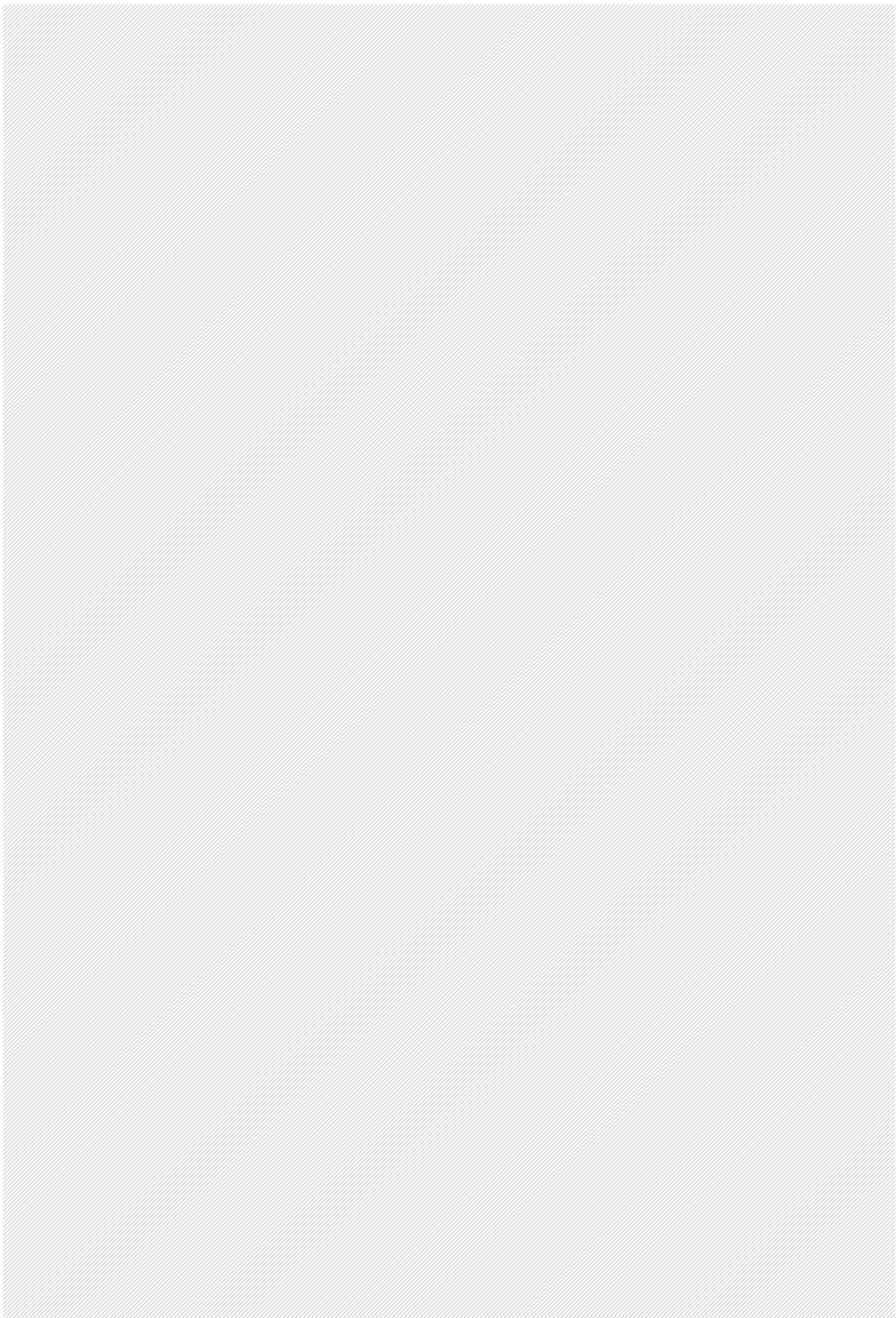


Military ambassadors from Brooks City-Base, Fort Sam Houston, Air Intelligence Agency and Randolph Air Force Base wave to a large crowd in downtown San Antonio during a Veterans Day parade Nov. 6. Staff Sgt. Angelica Broner (far right), from the Air Force Research Laboratory, represented Brooks City-Base in the parade, which was sponsored by the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce as part of Celebrate America's Military Week, Nov. 3-11.



DISCOVERY  
Nov. 19, 2004 15

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**Brooks  
Personality  
PROFILE**



# Feature

## Petty officer leads leads 'good life'

By Steve VanWert  
Discovery staff writer

Most of all, U.S. Navy Petty Officer and Hospitalman 2nd Class Chris Volz is a thankful man. He's worked the farm with his father, gotten married with Elvis, sailed a desk at Brooks and been a Baseline Bum. Life's good.

It all started in Hartford City, Ind., where he was born on June 19, 1970. His father settled in Kentucky and he graduated from Deming High School in Mount Olivet, Ky. in 1989.

"The senior class had all of 26 people in it," he said. "It was so small that the principal knew all the parents by first name. It was hard to get away with anything."

The small school enrollment also made it difficult to play sports. There wasn't always enough players to field a team.

"Everybody had to play sports," he said. "I played power forward on the basketball team and first base in baseball. We only fielded a baseball team one year."

After graduation, Petty Officer Volz wasn't sure what he wanted to do with his life. His father served aboard the James K. Polk in the early 1970s ("He was a bubblehead," Petty Officer Volz said, "a submariner.") and his grandfather was a chief quartermaster aboard the U.S.S. Essex during the Pacific Campaign in World War II. It was a strong Naval background, but he wasn't ready to enlist right away.

"I tried a lot of other things before I joined. I was a construction worker, factory worker, fast food worker and farmer. I even went to college to major in radio/television broadcasting," he said. "Nothing seemed to fit me. So I said to myself. 'Self, your father was in the Navy, your grandfather was in the Navy; they turned out okay. Maybe you should give it a go.' My Dad found out I was talking to a Navy recruiter, sat me down and gave me a talk that went something like this. 'If you are looking for a purpose the military can help you find it, but remember what the purpose of the military is.'"

He joined the Navy in 1990 and went to Great Lakes, Ill. for basic training. For someone who didn't love school, he was about to spend a lot of time in class. The next months saw him attending Navy Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes, Ill., and then Field Medical Service School at Camp Johnson, N.C. He was assigned to Naval Hospital Newport

Photos by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Rhode Island as a ward corpsman from March 1991 to June 1992, then was selected to serve with the 2nd Marine Division at FMS Camp Lajeune, N.C.

He deployed with the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines to the 3rd Marine Division, FMF Okinawa, Japan, followed by a deployment with the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force Caribbean from July to October 1994 in support of Operation Restore/Uphold Democracy.

After nearly five years in the Navy, Petty Officer Volz transferred to Brooks to assist in establishing the Naval Medical Research Institute Detachment here. Suddenly, he was sailing a desk.

"Well, at least I didn't have to worry about getting sea sick," he said.

Later tours took him to Aerospace Physiology Technician School in Pensacola, Fla., and Aviation Survival Training in Norfolk, Va., where he later became an instructor to all branches of the Armed Forces. In 2002, he returned to Brooks. But it was during his first tour in San Antonio that he got married, along with some help from Elvis.

"I lived in an apartment in San Antonio," he said. "On my birthday, a friend took me out for a celebration. When we came back to the apartment, there was a young lady sitting on my apartment steps talking to a friend. I found out she lived in the complex and we began dating. In March 1999, we decided to get married."

An advertisement for the Graceland Wedding Chapel caught his fiancée's eye. "For just \$500 we could get married in Las Vegas," he said. "It included getting picked up at the airport by a limousine, a hotel room for a couple of nights, the wedding and two T-shirts that read 'I just got married at the Graceland Wedding Chapel.' And it also included Elvis."

Elvis? Isn't he dead?

"Well, sure, but this guy was a dead-ringer, pardon the pun," Petty Officer Volz said. "It was really cool. I was standing in a small room, dressed in my tux, waiting for the ceremony to start when a pink Cadillac convertible pulled up outside the door."

Elvis, or at least a modern reincarnation of Elvis, got out, picked up his acoustic guitar and walked into the room. "You getting' married today?" he drawled.

Petty Officer Volz was amazed. The accent, the pompadour haircut, the gold lame jump suit - it was Young Elvis.

"Sure," Petty Officer Volz said.

"What songs do you want me to sing?" asked Elvis.

"'Teddy Bear' would be nice," Petty Officer Volz replied. Elvis nodded and began serenading the amazed soon-to-be husband right there in the waiting room. He played "Teddy Bear" and followed up with "Stairway to Heaven."

"It was surreal," said Petty Officer Volz. "Elvis singing 'Stairway to Heaven.' I loved it. We got the whole wedding on tape, plus three rolls of film. We still put that tape on every now and then and laugh until our sides hurt."

You could say the happy couple took a gamble on marriage.

Life and marriage may be a gamble, but being a Baseline Bum isn't. It's a sure thing.

"My wife and I have been official members of the San Antonio Spurs Baseline Bums for a couple of years," he said. "It's a semi-select group, but there's no secret handshake or anything."

The Bums sit in sections 101, 127 and 128 at the SBC Center and cheer on the Spurs every home game. Members wear black Spurs T-shirts and have to provide 20 hours of community service helping the Spurs as volunteers for Spurs charities.

"Sixty percent of the time we're just cheering on the Spurs," he said. "But the other 40 percent we spend helping out at various Spurs events such as silent auctions, the 'Tux and Tennies dinner' and the annual Spurs golf tournament."

"The neat thing is that when I sit in my seat at a Spurs game, I know the guy sitting next to me, behind me and in front of me are all fans. I don't have to put up with some guy in a Laker shirt."

Being in the Navy and working on an Air Force installation, even a "City-Base" isn't really all that different, he said. "When people ask me what a Navy guy does on an Air Force base, I tell them I'm assigned to a secret submarine base on the San Antonio River," he said.

Petty Officer Volz thinks his job at Brooks is just the best. "Everyone here is just top quality," he said. "There's no dead weight, no wasted space. These people care about each other. I love working here."

He sums up his success in the military this way: "I've always done two things," he said. "One, I always do what I'm told and second, I always do what I said I'd do. Those two things will keep you golden."

He loves his job. He loves his family. He loves the Spurs. Will this love fest ever end?

"I'm staying in the military until they throw me out," he said. "They're going to have to have the security police escort me off base and lock me out."

And when they do, Elvis will be somewhere in the background playing "Stairway to Heaven" on his acoustic guitar.



VOLZ

## Q&A

FULL NAME/RANK:  
Petty Officer 2nd Class Christian Deon Volz, U.S. Navy

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:  
Project Technician, Naval Health Research Center

IN SIMPLE TERMS,  
WHAT DO YOU DO?:  
Remember Igor? That's me! "You need a brain, Master? Yes, Master."

BIRTHDAY:  
June 19, 1970

HOMETOWN:  
Mount Olivet, Ky.

FAMILY STATUS:  
Married, with two dogs, a miniature Schnauzer and a miniature Ugandan toy terrier, or MUTT

PERSONAL MOTTO:  
"Don't be nervous in the service"

PET PEEVE:  
People who ask you questions then get upset when your answer is not what they wanted to hear.

INSPIRATION:  
My wife, the smartest person I know and the world's greatest math teacher. One more class and she's earned a master's degree in mathematics. She is an unapologetic overachiever and I wish I could be more like her.

HOBBIES:  
San Antonio Spurs season ticket holder and Baseline Bum

ULTIMATE GOAL:  
Travel the United States in an RV fulltime, go to an NBA game in every arena, see a baseball game in every Major League park, visit every National Park, ride all the roller coasters in every major amusement park.

BOOK AT BEDSIDE:  
"Stranger in a Strange Land" by Robert Heinlein

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:  
My life. It's the only thing I possess alone I would kill to keep.





# PROFILES IN TIME

## A Centennial of Flight series

### Brooks scientist contributed to aviation safety, training

(Editor's note: Since the Wright Brothers launched the age of powered flight, countless aviators have greatly contributed to humanity's progress. Discovery concludes this 10-part series by paying tribute to another Air Force legend and Brooks Field innovator whose willingness to experiment with radically different ideas relating to flight led to advances in aviation science.)

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Figuratively and physically, Dr. Kent Gillingham was a giant among men. His 6-foot-6-inch aerospace medicine visionary was head and shoulders above anyone else in understanding the scourge of aviators - spatial disorientation.

Dr. Gillingham devoted his professional life to developing countermeasures for the more than 30 types of spatially disorienting illusions that have contributed to the deaths of countless aviators since the dawn of powered flight. Considered the "Father of Spatial Disorientation Research," this humble scientist's legacy is forever linked to enhanced pilot training and aviation safety.

While not a Paul Bunyon-like character, he nevertheless was born in Bad Axe, Mich. on July 16, 1938. He developed a lifelong love for flying following childhood visits to the Ann Arbor airport.

"His love of flying motivated him. I never worried about Kent, he was a most thorough pilot," recalled his widow

about his meticulous attention to detail. His wife, colleagues and friends remember him as a regimented, disciplined, focused perfectionist - qualities that greatly helped him as a scientist.

His Air Force research career began after graduation from the University of Michigan in 1963 as a medical doctor. He was subsequently commissioned in the Air Force in July 1964 and completed a rotating internship at the U.S. Air Force Hospital at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Following completion of the Aerospace Medicine Primary course at Brooks, Dr. Gillingham was assigned to the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine from 1965 to 1967 as a research flight surgeon.

Mentored by acceleration research pioneer Dr. Sid Leverett, Dr. Gillingham initially focused his research on G-forces impacting aviator performance and survival. Among his major accomplishments was the quantification of physiologic and pathologic responses to high G-stress. He developed and implemented centrifuge-based high-G training for fighter pilots, such as G-straining maneuvers, to prevent G-force-induced loss of consciousness, commonly called G-LOC.

During this same period, he began to investigate the physiological and psychological effects of spatial disorientation. "He approached spatial disorientation as a disease, a medical problem," said Dr. Fred Previc, a Brooks colleague, who credited him with establishing the spatial disorientation research program at Brooks in the 1970s.

Dr. Gillingham pinpointed the problem of spatial disorientation in "Spatial Orientation in Flight," published the year of his death. He observed, "The evolution of humans saw them develop over millions of years as aquatic, terres-

trial and even arboreal creatures, but never aerial ones. As a result, we acquired sensory systems well suited for maneuvering under our own power on the surface of the earth, but poorly suited for flying. Even birds, whose primary mode of locomotion is flying, are unable to maintain spatial orientation and fly safely when deprived of vision by fog or clouds. Only bats seem to have developed the ability to fly without vision ... It should come as no surprise that our sudden entry into the aerial environment resulted in a mismatch between the orientational demands of the new environment and our innate ability to orient. The manifestation of this mismatch is spatial disorientation."

He continued his research at the University of Iowa where he earned a doctorate degree in physiology and biophysics in 1973. He returned to Brooks as a civilian research medical officer in the Crew Technology Division. During his Armstrong Laboratory tour, Dr. Gillingham focused on aero-medical research, teaching and consultation involving aircraft mishap investigations linked to spatial disorientation. He became an internationally respected aircraft mishap investigator.

Opinionated with strongly-held convictions, Dr. Gillingham became a crusading scientist and advocate for enhanced pilot training relating to spatial disorientation countermeasures.

"Kent always felt it had to be improved," recalled Dr. Previc, noting, "He was criticized for taking on the responsibility of management. He felt someone had to do the work. Kent felt he understood the (spatial disorientation) problem more than anyone else, and I think he did."

His actions led to improved cockpit instrumentation. This included advanced helmet-mounted heads-up displays for fighter pilots who relied on both visual and auditory cues to combat spatial disorientation. "He challenged traditional thought. He advocated designing cockpits around pilots," Dr. Previc said.



He also became an irresistible force by campaigning for improved flight simulator training. Dr. Gillingham knew that the antiquated Barany chair, and later another manually-operated simulator called the Vertifuge, were inadequate in training aviators to combat spatially disorienting illusions produced during high-G force fighter maneuvers. He designed and secured the funding for the world's first Advanced Spatial Disorientation Demonstrator, a simulator that is being used today in the U.S. Air Force and by some foreign air forces as part of improved pilot training.

Dr. Gillingham's life was cut short at age 55 when he was killed in an aircraft accident near Stinson Field on Sept. 27, 1993, the same day that another Air Force aviation legend died - Gen. Jimmy Doolittle. Exactly one year later, "B" Drive at Brooks was re-named Gillingham Drive. His legacy also lives on in a prestigious Aerospace Medical Association Award named for him. It's presented annually for significant contributions in the fields of spatial disorientation and situational awareness in flight.

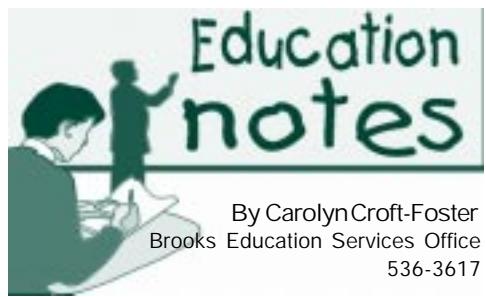


Photos by Rudy Purificato

Janet Gillingham and Brooks researcher Bill Ercaline examine a miniature replica of the Advanced Spatial Disorientation Demonstrator that was the centerpiece of a special Hanger 9 exhibit dedicated to the late Dr. Kent Gillingham.



Janet Gillingham, widow of Brooks scientist Dr. Kent Gillingham, gazes at a special Hanger 9 exhibit dedicated to her late husband. The exhibit was partially funded through a memorial fund following his death.



By Carolyn Croft-Foster  
Brooks Education Services Office  
536-3617

### St. Mary's University

St. Mary's University has a graduate school representative at the Education Office every Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. St. Mary's offers 24 graduate programs, including business administration, computer information systems, industrial and clinical psychology, engineering systems and international relations to name a few.

St. Mary's also offers post-baccalaureate initial teacher certification for Texas. For qualified individuals, St. Mary's graduate school offers a partial tuition grant. Additional information can be obtained by scheduling an appointment with the St. Mary's representative through the Brooks Education Office.

### Spouses to Teachers Program

The Department of Defense tasked DANTES to develop and manage a new pilot program to help spouses begin careers as teachers. The Spouses to Teachers Program has just been launched in six states with a

large military population and a need for public school teachers.

These states are California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Texas and Virginia. Based on interest and activity, additional states may be added in the future. All eligible spouses who wish to become teachers in the pilot states may receive assistance from the Spouses to Teachers Program. This includes spouses who have already earned a baccalaureate degree or higher, as well as spouses who are at the undergraduate level. Degreed spouses will be counseled on their options for achieving certification and information on potential funding sources and employment opportunities.

Non-degree holders will receive help in identifying degree completion programs, as well as information about possible financial assistance, both state and federal, and the potential for finding employment as teacher's aides or other positions in public schools. To take advantage of this pilot program in Texas, spouses may contact the Texas pilot office toll free at 1-800-815-5484.

### DSST announces fee increase

The fee for civilians to take the Dantes Standardized Skills Tests has increased to \$60 effective Oct. 1. Payment must be made by money order or credit card. The fee for CLEP Testing on base for civilians attending on-base programs continues to be \$120. The fee for CLEP exams at local colleges and universities is \$75. To locate a school that of-

fers testing visit the College Board website at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

### Upper Iowa on base and online

Register now for Upper Iowa University – Distance Learning. Courses are available in business and public administration. Online and correspondence courses are also available in other majors. The Upper Iowa University office in the Brooks Education Center is open Monday through Friday. The coordinator also holds advising hours at Lackland on Thursdays. For more information, visit the website at [www.uiu.edu](http://www.uiu.edu), stop by the Brooks office, Bldg. 558, or call 536-4033.

### Montgomery GI Bill participants can increase benefits

Active duty personnel, currently enrolled in the Montgomery GI Bill, have the opportunity to increase Chapter 30 GI Bill benefits by \$5,400 — from \$23,400 to \$28,800 — for a maximum contribution of \$600. This payment increases the full-time monthly rate one dollar for every four dollars contributed. The minimum payment is \$20 per month. Contributions can be started and stopped at any time while the participant is on active duty. This is not a pay reduction; therefore, there is not a tax savings. This benefit is only open to personnel who first entered active duty on or after July 1, 1985 and elected to participate in the MGIB. This feature is not open to Vietnam-Era or VEAP convertees. For more information, call 536-3618.

### Air Force Virtual Education Center

The Virtual Education Center is now online. Servicemembers can view information about Air Force Education Centers and CCAF. CCAF students can order CCAF transcripts from this site. There are also practice tests available for CLEP exams on this site. To access the AFVEC go to [afvec.langley.af.mil](http://afvec.langley.af.mil) and establish an account. For more information call 536-3617.

### Discover Program online

The Discover Program is a career exploration program for individuals searching for a new career. This program can be used by military, civilians and family members. For more information or to schedule an appointment to review the website and get started, call 536-3617.

### Texas State University

Texas State University offers a bachelor of applied arts and sciences. The BAAS degree provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to capitalize on prior work and training experiences. Students pursuing this degree may transfer semester hours previously earned, individualize the degree plan with major emphasis in an occupational field of choice, and earn semester hour credit for work and life experience and training conducted by business, industry, and military. Night classes are available in the San Antonio and San Marcos area. For more information call 536-3618.



## CFC Agency Spotlight: Palmer Drug Abuse Program

By Capt. Jose Tolentino  
68th Information Operations Squadron

Mary Urey credits the Palmer Drug Abuse Program for saving her sanity, her life and her son's life. In the early 1990's, her 17 year-old son Rob became involved with drugs and gangs.

This painful episode was difficult to understand because her son was raised in a loving home in a quiet part of town. He was involved with Boy Scouts and sports, and his mother was involved in his daily activities. Ms. Urey tried to be a good example for her son. She was a distinguished graduate from Webster's University, had earned a master's degree in procurement and acquisitions management and was advancing in a successful career with the federal service. However, her world began to crumble the day she received the call that her son had been shot by gang members.

"This is something I never thought happened to people like me – successful people who live in the 'good' part of town," Ms. Urey said. "These problems happen to other people, not me, I told myself."

She later found out Rob had made poor associations with members of a gang bent on fighting prejudice through more violence. He was shot in the chin while escaping from his attackers, but the struggle was just beginning. Ms. Urey soon discovered her son was suffering from substance abuse. She immediately tried in-residence counseling but insurance only covered two months; the money ended before his recovery from drug use was complete.

Ms. Urey was distraught and did not know where to turn. "I felt like I was drowning and sinking fast. I cried daily and was really blessed to have such an understanding boss at the time." Then she found out about PDAP, the Palmer Drug Abuse Program.

PDAP is a free, 12-step program geared to help families confront and deal with drug addiction. PDAP provides trained counselors to assist people through different phases of their recovery to include denial, acceptance and dealing with their addiction. Counselors are also available to inform, advise, and counsel family members as well.

For Ms. Urey and her son, this program was exactly what they needed.

They met with their respective PDAP counselors simultaneously and went straight to the heart of the matter. She discovered several things about drug abuse that really helped her cope with her family situation, as well as how to best help Rob through his addiction.

"Perception is everything; this is not just a phase he went through," Ms. Urey said. "In his mind, he was very addicted. Drug abusers aim for the inexpensive or free drugs and his drug of choice was Freon inhaled from home air conditioners."

Rob finally reached the pivotal moment in his recovery when he realized the addiction was more of a mental need than a physical need. Other factors also contributed towards his addiction. Despite her best efforts as a nurturing mother, Rob tried to deal with the issue of rejection. He was struggling with this issue because he grew up without his biological father and had repressed these feelings.

Ms. Urey was shocked with disbelief and nearly devastated with this news, but PDAP helped her deal with the whirlwind of emotions. She very quickly learned to live according to the Lord's Serenity Prayer and absorbed every step in the program.

She also learned she was not alone; about 90 percent of all kids in the program came from homes where the parents were divorced and one parent was not present in their lives. Mother and son stayed with the program for one year, until Rob's recovery was finally complete.

Today, Ms. Urey serves as the director for the 311th Human Systems Wing Small Business Office. She is a proud grandmother of two, with one more grandchild on the way. Her son is a happily married and an excellent father to his children.

"His life is on the right track and he is very happy," Ms. Urey said.

Despite the initial embarrassment she felt over 12 years ago,



Mary Urey, director of the small business office at Brooks City-Base, used a CFC agency in a time of need.

she is open about her experiences. "We must open our eyes to reality and stop thinking 'problems like these don't happen to people like me.' People who do not look like they need help sometimes do. If I can open people's eyes and help other parents, I've done my job."

## Air Force seeks navigators

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Air Force officials are providing more opportunities to active-duty officers who want to become navigators.

Officers who meet basic qualifications must submit their application package by Dec. 29 to be considered by the Feb. 8 to 10 undergraduate flying training selection board at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

"The Air Force has allocated additional training slots for navigator training," said Maj. Jim Wurzer, chief of the pipeline and trainer assignments branch at the center. "The number of competitive officers who apply will determine how many slots will be filled.

If qualified, there is a high probability of being selected for navigator or combat systems officer training in 2005."

The navigator career field is currently undergoing an important transition to combat systems officer, said Major Wurzer. This transition will provide unique opportunities

for officers interested in becoming a part of the future rated force.

Eligible officers must have a birth date after May 1, 1975, and a total active federal commissioned service date after May 1, 2000.

The application — an Air Force Information Management Tool 215, Aircrew Training Candidate Data Summary — contains basic instructions. Complete details are available in Air Force Instruction 36-2205, Applying for Flying Training, Air Battle Manager and Astronaut Programs.

Prospective fliers should check to see if they need a physical exam. Because of possible delays in physical exam processing, it should be scheduled as soon as possible to meet the application deadline. Airmen interested should also check to see if they need to take the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test or the Basic Attributes Test.

People can visit the website at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/specfly/](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/specfly/) or contact their local military personnel flight for more information.



Combined Federal Campaign

For more information or if you or someone you know needs assistance dealing with drug abuse, please visit the PDAP website at [www.pdap.com](http://www.pdap.com). If you would like to contribute to PDAP as part of the CFC, the agency code is #5063. Contact your local CFC representative to contribute today.



# SPORTS

## Program Office wins flag football tournament to renew dynasty

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

"The dynasty has returned," announced Chris Saldana minutes after the 311th Human Systems Program Office squad claimed its second consecutive base intramural flag football crown Nov. 10 with a convincing 22-8 win over the combined Air Force Institute for Operational Health/Air Force Research Laboratory team.

The player-coach had predicted last year that YA had been "reborn" as a flag football dynasty when his club upset the de-



Justin Darwin (right) runs for a first down, with Michael Weems (far left) and Blake Miracle in hot pursuit.

### 68th IOS wins CFC dodgeball tourney

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

The 68th Information Operations Squadron added to its unique collection of trophies for winning first-time base sports events when they captured the inaugural Brooks City-Base Combined Federal Campaign Dodgeball Tournament Nov. 5.

Besides raising \$573 for CFC, the tournament gave the 68th IOS another historic victory. Last month, they won the first Brooks City-Base "End of Summer" Team Triathlon.

"Everyone had a great time. The stands were filled with fans," said Master Sgt. Vincent Lapichino, a Brooks CFC co-lead who also serves as Operations Directorate NCOIC for the Air Force Institute for Operational Health. "The purpose of the tournament was to draw attention to CFC and have fun doing it."

Fourteen teams, composed of six players each, competed in the day-long tournament at the fitness center gym.

Other organizations that fielded teams in the tournament were the 311th Human Systems Wing, the Air Force Medical Operations Agency, the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, the Air Force Institute for Operational Health, the Air Force Research Laboratory and an Army team, which

fended off the 68th Information Operations Squadron for the Brooks intramural gridiron title.

With the 2004 regular season cancelled, YA validated its claim as the top football team at Brooks with a perfect 4-0 record during the postseason tournament.

YA jumped out to an early first half lead on its first possession of the game when scrambling quarterback Justin Darwin fired a touchdown pass to wide receiver Doug Ferrata.

YA's defense, a key factor in the team's victory, made a key

play during their opponent's first possession. They executed the first of two goal line stands by intercepting a pass in the end zone that had been intended for AFIOH/AFRL center Warren Benge.

A sideline drama unfolded shortly thereafter when AFIOH/AFRL's star player, Rob Taylor, arrived 15 minutes late. Everyone on the field knew the star athlete's reputation as a championship-caliber impact player, and Taylor predicted a swift comeback. His prediction looked grim, however because at the same moment, Saldana was racing 80 yards down the sideline for a touchdown that put YA up 12-0 at halftime.

Turnovers continued to plague AFIOH/AFRL veteran coach and quarterback Aaron Sinclair during the second half. However, the quarterback managed to perfectly execute a no-look lateral to Warren Benge for a touchdown. A two-point conversion made it 12-8, fueling AFIOH/AFRL's hopes for a come-from-behind victory.

With his star receiver now in



Photos by Alman 1st Class Samantha Shieh

Caleb Brown of the 68th Information Operations Squadron races for the end zone, as Doug Ferrata and Ben Smith attempt a stop. The defenders are members of the 311th Human Systems Program Office, the flag football tournament champions.

the game, Sinclair fired what would have been a game-changing TD pass to Taylor in the end zone. However the ball sailed past his receiver in what became a turning point in the game. "I guess I was too pumped. He (Taylor) was wide open. I should have taken more time and planted," Sinclair said.

YA drove the final nail in their opponent's gridiron coffin when

Darwin fired a touchdown pass to Saldana with less than two minutes left to play. Their final tallies included a two-point conversion and a two-point safety.

"The reason we won was because we played like a team," YA's coach told his team during the on-field celebration. "I wasn't surprised we beat them, because we put in a lot of work and were selfless."

### Brooks rugby duo helps Air Force win title

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

One is a neuro-scientist, the other a mechanical engineer. As analytical thinkers, this Brooks pair of rugby stars are a natural match for a sport that is more about brains than it is about brawn.

Nevertheless, 1st Lt. Matt Clugston and Capt. Andy McQuade used both the strength of their wills and bodies to help the undefeated Air Force rugby team win the 2004 Armed Forces championship at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

"I started playing in 1996 on the Misawa base team in Japan when I was enlisted. A buddy of mine told me about the Budweiser International Rugby Tournament in Hawaii. I liked the travel part (of the game)," said Lieutenant Clugston, an Air Force Medical Support Agency mechanical engineer.

The 28-year-old Storm Lake, Iowa, native said he never played rugby in high school where he specialized in football and wrestling. However, before graduating from the Air Force Academy in 2002, Lieutenant Clugston had embraced the sport with more passion than he had previously demonstrated in wrestling.

"It was a lot of what I had expected, but I didn't think I'd enjoy it so much. The image I had of rugby was 'meatheads' with big ears and no teeth. It's not like that. It's an intelligent sport with a lot of strategy," he said.

Captain McQuade, who earned a doctorate in neuroscience from the University of Cincinnati, also became interested in the sport at a later age. "I wrestled in high school and was a baseball catcher," he said. He was initially drawn to rugby while a freshman at Virginia Military Institute



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Capt. Andy McQuade (left), an Air Force Research Laboratory scientist, and 1st Lt. Matt Clugston, an Air Force Medical Support Agency mechanical engineer, were teammates on the 2004 Air Force rugby team. The team won the Armed Forces championships in October.

where he earned an Air Force commission in 1997. "I thought about playing, but a store that sold boots (cleated shoes) for rugby was closed. I forgot about it. I didn't pick it up until I was in the graduate student program. I first started playing rugby for a city league men's team in Cincinnati," said Captain McQuade, a 29-year-old Baltimore, Md. native who is an Air Force Research Laboratory scientist in the Warfighter Fatigue Countermeasures Branch.

Their late migration to a sport that is truly foreign to most Americans is not surprising, given the general perception among U.S. citizens that rugby is even more brutal and potentially dangerous than NFL football.

According to legend, the sport originated at the Rugby School in England in 1823. It was supposedly invented accidentally by a student named William Webb Ellis who had violated soccer match rules by picking up the ball and running with it.



## Rugby team wins Armed Forces championship with help of two Brooks players

Continued from page 20

Today, rugby is a worldwide sport enjoyed by players in more than 100 countries. Among its more famous players is former President Bill Clinton and Pope John Paul II. South Africa is the reigning rugby union world champions. While the U.S. has never won a world rugby title, America is the reigning Olympic gold medal champion if you count the last time rugby was an Olympic sport – in 1924.

While rugby is wildly popular outside the U.S., the Brooks officers are part of a growing group of American players who are helping promote greater interest in the sport stateside.

"It combines physicality and having a good understanding of body positioning. It's orchestrated mayhem," Captain McQuade said, noting that to the casual observer rugby appears as nothing more than a head-banging exercise.

However, for more than a century the sport has roughly adhered to its rules where 15-player teams compete in a combat setting during 80-minute matches played on a soccer-size field. A touchdown, worth five points, is called "a try." There are stiff-armed tackles, 'blood' substitutions, and scrum formations of players who interlock themselves in much the same way ancient Greek and Roman armies did to form phalanxes.

The game's strategy variations require that players' jersey numbers match their positions, which range from halfbacks and forwards to flankers, fullbacks and wingers.

"When you're out on the pitch (field) every guy out there has the goal to beat the other team. While there's a lot of punching and stomping, the unique thing about the sport is that afterwards both teams socialize," Lieutenant Clugston said. Captain McQuade agreed that rugby players consistently display a higher level of camaraderie than what he has experienced in other sports.

During matches, teammates stick up for one another and try to intervene when they perceive an opponent has targeted

comrades for bone-crushing body blows.

Despite Lieutenant Clugston having dislocated both shoulders that required reconstruction, and Captain McQuade having a permanently implanted metal joint to strengthen a repaired broken right wrist, both men agree their injuries are part of the challenge of playing the game.

"Don't let ignorance of the sport influence you in not coming out for it," said Lieutenant Clugston, who was a center/back on the Air Force Rugby team in 2003 and 2004. "You learn to minimize pain to yourself," added Captain McQuade, a veteran fullback/winger who continues to develop mental toughness as a member of the San Antonio Rugby Football Club.



AIR FORCE RUGBY TEAM — 2004 ARMED FORCES CHAMPIONS